

nothing prevents the current invention from showing detail which is not shown in a print layout, such as the e-mail field in the sample screen shot.

[0042] As an internet program there are numerous other aspects of this interface which become clear. First, one could write a web browser add-in or modify a web browser to provide this functionality. Second, the splitting and displaying could be carried out on a remote host. Third, when entering a section or block, section or row level record locking could be implemented based on a particular portion of the content being shown in the widget-based central focus panel. Fourth, this technique is not limited to XML, but could be used with any information format or with interaction to a database using a protocol like JDBC or ODBC. Fifth, the techniques described are not limited to Visual Basic or the specific tools used to construct the prototype.

Program Listing Deposit

[Beginning of Program]
[Insert program here]
[End of Program]

Claims

[c1]

A user interface comprising:

- (a) structured information whereupon the information is dynamically partitioned into three groups ("prior", "current", and "subsequent"); and
- (b) two or more window panes:
 - (i) exactly one window pane comprising one or more user interface widgets used to enter or modify the portion of the information in the current partition ("focus panel"); and
 - (ii) at least one other window pane which displays a print layout representation of the information in the prior or subsequent partitions ("content panel")

[c2]

A help system comprising :

A user interface comprising:

- (a) structured information whereupon the information is dynamically partitioned into two groups
 - (i) selected
 - (ii) non-selected; and
- (b) one or more windows where at least one pane comprises of one or more user interface widgets used to enter or modify the portion of the information in the selected partition ("focus panel") where
 - (i) the focus frame is sufficiently large enough to contain the widgets

[c5]

A user interface as described in Claim 1 adding one or more of the following:

- (c) a method for performing one or more of the following operations:
 - (i) adding additional current information; or
 - (ii) changing which information is current and which information is prior or subsequent.
- (d) where the relative position of the focus panel stays constant
- (e) where information can be partitioned by the following:
 - (i) row, column, or instance of text or graphic
 - (ii) keyboard or mouse or method of pointer navigation
 - (iii) by any application-determined method
- (f) where hidden information can be added such that
 - (i) the hidden information is displayed in a field or widget within the focus panel
 - (ii) the hidden information can be shown or hidden within the focus panel
 - (iii) the hidden information can contain links or attachments to external objects
- (g) where the widgets within the focus panel can contain, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:
 - (i) links or attachments to external objects

- (ii) calculated fields
- (iii) standard form objects such as radio buttons
jump menus, list boxes, text fields, check
boxes, multiple select lists, image field
hidden field, buttons
- (v) functions which execute external objects
- (vi) additional panes containing one or more
widgets that can be shown or hidden
- (vii) dynamically changing widgets or content
- (h) where the relative position of the focus panel
can be adjusted
- (i) where the layout of the focus panel changes based
on
 - (i) input from external objects
 - (ii) interaction within the focus panel itself
 - (iii) input from other panes within the
application
 - (iv) input from other applications

[c6]

A user interface as described in Claim 1
wherein the information in the content panel
is described in html, and where the
information is split by XSLT transform

[c7]

A user interface as described in Claim 2 and
one or more of the following:

- (a) a step through process in the help panel
which can modify, add, or delete content
in the focus panel
- (b) a system whereby the user can move
between the help panel and the focus
panel

Abstract of Disclosure